

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for diagnosing the possibility of disease in a body part, the method comprising:

representing the body part with a grid having a plurality of finite elements;
using a model of the body part, obtaining a set of weights associated with a particular one of the plurality of finite elements, each finite element has one weight factor for each current injection obtained with an electrode array, and each weight factor obtained from the current density in the finite element using a model of the body part;
obtaining a baseline electrical property associated with each of the current injections;

computing a diagnostic at the particular finite element, for each finite element the diagnostic is the sum over all current injections of the weight factor multiplied by the ratio of the baseline electrical property to a measured impedance being a function of the set of weights, and a measured electrical property obtained with an electrode array; and

utilizing the diagnostic to diagnose the possibility of disease in the body part, the higher the value of the sum of the diagnostic, the higher the possibility of disease at the location of the associated finite element.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (original): The system of claim 1, wherein the measured electrical property is conditioned to compute the diagnostic.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein, in the step of representing, the grid is a two dimensional grid.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein, in the step of representing, the grid is a three dimensional grid.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the baseline electrical property is obtained using a physical model of the body part.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the baseline electrical property is obtained using a control subject.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the baseline electrical property is obtained using a finite element method.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 9, wherein the baseline electrical property is obtained by;

obtaining a baseline voltage; and

using the baseline voltage to compute a baseline impedance.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein, in the step of obtaining a baseline electrical property, the model of the body part assumes a non-uniform resistivity.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising;

applying a plurality of electrodes to the body part; and

obtaining a measured electrical property of the body part with the plurality of electrodes.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein the step of applying includes:

applying n_{CI} current injection electrode pairs on the body part, where n_{CI} is an integer greater than zero; and

applying n_{CI} voltage measurement electrode pairs on the body part, each of the current injection electrode pairs associated with one of the n_{CI} voltage measurement electrode pairs.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 13, wherein the step of obtaining a measured electrical property includes:

injecting a first current between a first pair of the n_{CI} current injection electrode pairs;

measuring the resultant voltage difference V_i^M between the voltage measurement electrode pair associated with the first current injection electrode pair;

repeating the preceding two steps of injecting and measuring with the other electrode pairs until all n_{CI} voltage differences, $\{V_1^M, V_2^M, \dots, V_{n_{CI}}^M\}$ are obtained; and

using the n_{CI} voltage differences to obtain associated measured impedances, $\{Z_1^M, Z_2^M, \dots, Z_{n_{CI}}^M\}$, where Z_j^M is the measured impedance obtained by using the j^{th} current injection electrode pair and the voltage measurement electrode pair associated therewith.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 14, wherein, if the particular finite element is identified as the k^{th} finite element and the set of weights is denoted by $\{w_{1k}, w_{2k}, \dots, w_{n_{CI}k}\}$ where w_{ik} is the weight associated with the k^{th} finite element and i^{th} current injection electrode pair, then the step of obtaining a set of weights, , include:

using the model of the body part to obtain a set of current densities, $\{J_{1k}, J_{2k}, \dots, J_{n_{CI}k}\}$, where J_{ik} is the current density at the k^{th} finite element when current is injected between the i^{th} current injection electrode pair; and

obtaining the set of weights using the relation

$$w_{ik} = \frac{J_{ik}}{\sum_{j=1}^{n_{cl}} J_{jk}}.$$

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 15, wherein the step of obtaining a baseline electrical property includes:

using the model of the body part to obtain a set of baseline impedances $\{Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_{n_{cl}}\}$ where Z_i is the impedance associated with the i^{th} electrode pair.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein the step of computing a diagnostic includes:

calculating an average of a function $f(Z_i, Z_i^M)$ at the k^{th} finite element, the average given by

$\langle f_k \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{n_{cl}} w_{ik} f(Z_i, Z_i^M)$, wherein the diagnostic at the k^{th} finite element is defined to be $\langle f_k \rangle$.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17, wherein the function $f(Z_i, Z_i^M)$ is given by

$$f(Z_i, Z_i^M) = \frac{Z_i}{Z_i^M}.$$

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of claim 17, further comprising:

obtaining diagnostics at each of the other finite elements, wherein the step of utilizing the diagnostic includes:

averaging the diagnostics at each of the finite elements to find an averaged diagnostic $\langle f \rangle$; and

calculating a second averaged diagnostic, $\langle f_{\text{homo}} \rangle$, corresponding to a homologous body part.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 19, wherein the step of utilizing the diagnostic further includes calculating a difference $\langle f \rangle - \langle f_{\text{homo}} \rangle$, wherein the quantity $|\langle f \rangle - \langle f_{\text{homo}} \rangle|$ is indicative of the possibility of disease in the body part or the homologous body part.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 19, wherein the step of utilizing the diagnostic further includes calculating a quantity

$$\frac{\langle f \rangle - \langle f_{\text{homo}} \rangle}{\frac{1}{2}(\langle f \rangle + \langle f_{\text{homo}} \rangle)}$$

that is indicative of the possibility of disease in the body part or the homologous body part.

Claims 22–42 (canceled).